

affected owing to suspension of flights to Kuwait and some other destinations for a shorter period and increased in operational costs on account of fuel and insurance rates.

(b) Air India had operated charter flights for Gulf evacuation and had raised a bill for Rs. 180 crores.

(c) Air India has met the impact of Gulf war through improvement in the yield and tight control over expenses and recorded a net profit of Rs. 81.23 crores in the year 1990-91.

[Translation]

#### **Production of Iodised Salt**

4124. SHRI SIMON MARAND: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the areas in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are affected by goitre because of the use of the uniodised salt;

(b) if so, the present output and demand of iodised salt in the country;

(c) the names of the units which supply iodised salt to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;

(d) whether the Government have given approval to some industries for the production of iodised salt in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken to ascertain the supply of iodised salt to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir. As per survey conducted by Central Goitre Survey Team most of the areas in Bihar & Uttar Pradesh

are affected by Goitre. In order to control the problems of goitre both the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have banned the sale of salt other than iodised salt for edible purposes, in their respective states.

(b) The current annual demand of iodised salt in areas where sale of non-iodised salt for edible purposes has been banned, is estimated as 25.27 lakhs M.T. As against this actual production of iodised salt during the year 1990-91 was 25.06 lakh M.T.

(c) Iodised salt is being supplied to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh from Rajasthan, Jam Nagar, Madras, Kharaghoda zones through Salt Commissioner, Government of India, Jaipur.

(d) and (e). Information is being collected from the concerned authorities.

[English]

#### **Activities of Mafia Gangs in Trains**

4125. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gangs are operating as hawkers in the mail/express trains between Guwahati and New Jalpaiguri in connivance with railway officials;

(b) whether there are incidence of inconveniences to the passengers in the reserved compartments thereby;

(c) whether there are complaints from the passengers in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to curb these unauthorised activities in trains and action proposed to be taken against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE